To his Excellency Thomas Johnson Esq. Governour of the State of Maryland

[Mar 13. 1778]

The Petition of ~~Isaac Chase~~ John Taylor, William Bateman, Robert Welsh, Joseph M'Neely, John Hall, John Cox, Alexander M'Clure, David Lewis, William Wood, Mary Tenny, Henry Campbell, William Martin and Thomas Jones of Samuel Clark of Cecil County Humbly Sheweth

That Your Petitioners several Years ago entered into Recognizences for their own and other Persons Attendance upon Cecil County Court, which being respited and continued from Court to Court without being discharged or the Matters determined; in a great Measure owing the Prosecutors not attending this County Court untill these disputes with Great Britain happened when indeed scarcely any Business was done and at the last November Court some of Your Petitioners being in the Militia serving their County others by the English having been in their Neighbourhood were Necessitated to fly to preserve their families and Substance and at the holding of that Court not yet returned and others from the Declaration of Independance had been induced to apprehend that all Recognizances taken under the former Government where of Consequence were discharged therefore neglected to attend - and at last November Court by Reason of their absence had their Recognizances very unexpectedly to them forfeited and Executions thereon were issued returnable to the present March Court. And as the Court hath been pleased to adjourn to a future Day for the calling those Executions -

Your Petitioners Humbly pray that Your Excellency taking the Premises into Your Consideration that upon the payment of the Costs of the several Matters against us You would grant a Nolle prosequi and do therein as to Your in Your Wisdom you shall think fit and Your Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall ever pray -

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.